

# The Presbyterian of the South

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**M**ETHODISTS are a great people and they have done a great work for God in the world. The Northern Methodist Church is a great Church and it is doing a great work in advancing the kingdom of God. Like other Churches it has some difficult problems to solve. One of these is the problem of the Negro. That Church has a large Negro membership. To satisfy them and those of its white membership who insist that there shall be no distinction be made because of color, at the last General Conference two negroes were elected bishops. It was done, it was said, with the distinct understanding that they should preside only over Negro conferences. It was claimed that they could lead the negroes better than white bishops could. Recently, however, at a meeting of the Board of Bishops, made up of all the bishops of the Church, one of the Negro bishops presided. Now one of the Negro Methodist papers is saying that as one of their bishops can preside over the white bishops, there can no reason be given why he should not preside over a white conference. This is logical. And there you are. We like our policy of developing a separate Negro Church.

**I**NTOXICATING liquors are being used in enormously increasing quantities for the production of so-called medicinal tonics, and it is very clear that these preparations are being used for beverage purposes. Before prohibition days about 10,000,000 gallons of whiskey was used for non-beverage purposes in a year. During the period immediately following the adoption of prohibition, from October 17th to June 1, 1918, the sales were at the rates of 7,750,000 gallons per year. For the year ending July 1, 1919, the amount withdrawn from the warehouses, for non-beverage purposes was 11,855,075 gallons. For the year ending July 1, 1920, the amount was 26,330,395. If the rate up to March of this year continues to July 1st, the amount will be 40,000,000 or more. One of two things is true. This nation is learning to use "patent medicines" at a fearful rate, or a great deal of this whiskey is diverted from the non-beverage business. This amount of whiskey will furnish for every man, woman and child in this country all the "tonics" that can be made from two fifths of a gallon of whiskey. Some people must get more than their share.

**M**ISTAKES are made sometimes by editors as well as by other people. In a recent note on this page we stated that the General Assembly adopted a resolution which prohibited its electing Executive Secretaries as members of the Executive Committees. We find that this was a mistake. The Permanent Committee on Systematic Beneficence in its report made the following recommendation, that "No salaried officer or employee shall be a member of any Executive Committee." This report was referred to the Standing Committee on Systematic Beneficence. It seems that this committee made no report on this recommendation, but it recommended that no Secretary be put on the Permanent Committee on Systematic Beneficence, and this recommendation was adopted. But this does not affect the position of Secretaries on the Executive Committees.

**D**OCTORS are sometimes quoted as saying that alcoholic liquors are needed as medicine. Naturally a doctor who was trained under the old school of medicine, and who has not given the subject much study under the light of modern scientific developments, is not likely to be willing to give up his old time method of practice, especially if he was, as some doctors were, in the habit of drinking even moderately himself. It is interesting to notice in this connection that the American Medical Association, composed of 81,000 of the leading physicians and surgeons of all parts of this country is on record on this subject. It opposes alcohol as a medicine. It admits that in certain cases alcohol may have a possible medicinal value, but says that there are substitutes for it which in these cases are just as effective and are free from the dangers connected with use of alcohol. Dr. Charles Mayo, one of the most famous surgeons in this country is quoted as saying: "Alcohol's only place now is in the arts and sciences. As a drug, it is being replaced by better remedies." The Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives in Congress in reporting on a bill before that body for strengthening the Volstead law for enforcing prohibition, in referring to the decision recently rendered by the Commissioner of Revenue, that beer may be sold as medicine without restriction, says: "The evidence to the committee that beer has never been recognized as a medicine was overwhelming. The United States Pharmacopoeia has never listed it as a medicine." This Pharmacopoeia is the standard authority for physicians and druggists in regard to medicines.

**W**ORKING men are sometimes said to be opposed to the Church. We do not believe this is true of them as a class. We know many Churches made up entirely of working men, and they are strong and active Churches. But if there are any working men who are opposed to the Church, they ought to be reminded, that, if it were not for the Church, they would have no Sabbath for rest each week. On the other hand we must not forget, that, if it were not for the Sabbath, there would be no Church. So let us see to it that both the Sabbath and the Church are preserved, as among God's greatest blessings to men.

**Q**UEER and unexpected statements have been made recently by some of the representatives of our Government in foreign countries. Whatever may be said about the utterances of Ambassador Harvey, our representative at the English court on other subjects, he is to be commended for having said that as his is a prohibition country, he is a prohibitionist both at home and abroad. There is a striking contrast between this and a statement which Admiral Sims is reported to have made in an address in London. He said he was not a teetotaler, that he hoped to be able to come to England thirty years from now, that he believed he would be able to get drunk then, and that he would if he could. It seems to us that a man who has no more sense of decency than that should be called home at once and should be kept there, relegated to private life.

**I**RELAND has been divided into North and South Ireland, each having the privilege of electing its own parliament. Northern Ireland, with Ulster as its center is Protestant, largely Presbyterian. South Ireland is largely Roman Catholic. The northern section has elected its parliament, and the result shows the feelings of its people. The Unionists, who are loyal to England elected 40 members, there were 6 Nationalists, who are in favor of independence, and 6 Sinn Feiners, who are opposed to everything except the overthrowing of all the existing order of government. It is interesting to note that Mr. de Valera, who had been elected by the Sinn Feiners as the president of the so-called Irish Republic, was defeated by Sir James Craig, a Unionist, by a majority of more than two to one. It will be interesting to watch the results of the organization and work of the two parliaments. The King and Queen of England attended the opening of the Ulster Parliament at Belfast, and were given a most cordial and loyal reception, but it is reported that the Nationalist and Sinn Fein members took no part in the proceedings.

**C**ANADIAN Presbyterians, Methodists and Congregationalists have been considering the question of Church Union for some time. When Canada went into the war it was mutually agreed that the consideration of the subject should be suspended until the coming of peace. It was taken up at the meeting of the Canadian General Assembly just held. By a vote of 414 to 107 the Assembly decided to take steps for the immediate consummation of the Union. It is claimed by some that the desire for union is not so general in the Church as this vote would seem to imply. It is claimed that a former action of the Assembly stated that the union would not be affected until there was a general desire for it on the part of the Church. It is also claimed that, when the subject was referred to the Churches for their vote, not more than one third of the membership voted in favor of union. What steps the Assembly is going to take now is not reported thus far.

**B**UILDING construction is a pretty good thermometer of business conditions. Judged by this criterion the South is rapidly recovering from the financial depression which has been felt for some time. According to the Manufacturers Record, one of the best informed papers in regard to the South, during the 15 weeks ending May 27th, plans were adopted for the erection of buildings that will cost \$420,000,000. This includes only buildings that cost \$10,000 or more. If all those costing less than that amount were added, the amount would be very much larger. Naturally when the high prices that had been received for farm products and manufactured articles began to fall, there was an unsettling of business, which produced a feeling of uncertainty, which in some cases amounted almost to a panic. But the people of this country and especially of the South have learned to adapt themselves to changed conditions more than once, and we are sure they are doing so now. The result will be that in a short time business will be running on as smoothly and prosperously as ever.